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NO. 4,802.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1896.—TWELVE PAGES.—COPYRIGHT, 1896, BY W. R. HEARST.

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FLYING SQUADRONS TO START TUESDAY.

If It Goes to Africa, Channel Fleet Remains to Watch Germany.

Englishmen Do Not Believe That Emperor William Will Back Down.

Chamberlain Suppressed the News Because Dutch and English Were in a Ferment.

HE DECLARES THE CRISIS OVER.

Dr. Jameson and Sir John Willoughby Are to Be Brought to England to Stand Trial for Their Invasion of the Boer Territory.

By Julian Ralph.

London, Jan. 8.—Queen Victoria is pictured in all the news dispatches from the Isle of Wight as immersed in papers relating to foreign affairs.

She knows to-night that next Tuesday the booming of great guns will take her attention from Chamberlain's bags full of state papers and that from her window at Osborne she will see the hastily arranged but impressive flying squadron putting to sea, bound for whatever place Germany elects. For, as to-day's Chronicle says, wherever any other power sends a fleet England will send a stronger fleet.

A story has been afloat for two days that the Queen sent a severe letter to her grandson at Berlin, but probably this was a bit of gossip, growing out of the situation. However, a rumor of the same date persists in circulation, and is coming to be regarded as gospel truth.

It is to the effect that before Jameson began his buccannering escapade in the Transvaal Emperor William had arranged to drop a force of marines from his ships in Delagoa Bay, march them over Portuguese territory and post them at Johannesburg to assist Kruger in repressing English turbulence and agitation at that capital.

GERMANY RUSSIA'S CATSPAW.

All the facts now coming to light strengthen the theory that the Emperor's challenge to England was long meditated and well planned. It is intimated on good authority that Russia and Germany were acting together. It is suggested that Germany has been Russia's catspaw, Russia having made an alliance with France as part of the same plan. Her scheme, it is argued, was designed to keep France from pouncing on Germany, in order to leave Germany free to engage in war with England.

This morning's news from Berlin is not at all quieting. The Transvaal agents are still hobnobbing with the German State Department.

The Emperor is writing an autograph letter to the Czar, and the Berlin newspapers, in default of all sense of humor, are declaring that the formation of a flying squadron by England is a needless provocation to Germany, which must entail evil consequences.

PORTUGAL MAKES DENIAL.

In London the German Ambassador and also the Portuguese Minister have visited Lord Salisbury. It is generally understood that Portugal denies Emperor William went so far in his belligerent plans as to secure permission to land an armed force from Delagoa Bay on Portuguese soil. On the other hand, it is whispered that Germany tried to do this, and England insisted that Portugal must deny the request.

It looks more and more as if all parties to the present contention had been aware of each others' intentions. For a considerable time it would be truer to say that all parties, except Dr. Jameson, for he merely happened to be the man to open a door that let in the German Emperor, who had been impatiently awaiting an opening. England showed this by her marvellous promptness in repudiating Jameson, but also showed it earlier by calling for disproportionate tenders for troopships for the Ashantee campaign. She opened negotiations with many steamship lines, but openly closed a bargain for but one ship. How many vessels she had privately engaged the public is not informed, but it is believed now that it was the German and not the Ashantee war she was considering.

SPLENDID FLYING SQUADRON.

The press dispatches tell me this morning of the power and size of the splendid flying squadron that has been so hastily gathered together. If this fleet goes to Delagoa Bay, it leaves behind, close to Germany, the New Channel squadron, the most formidable aggregation of men of war ever co-operating in one squadron in the world's history.

Emperor William sees these two groups of floating fortresses with trained vision and perfect ability to value their significance and to compare them with his own mere nucleus of a navy. Yet no one here int-

mates that he will back down. It is not like him. The English say, moreover, it is too evident that he has not acted hastily or angrily, but has studied well the game he is playing.

FRANCE WILL DISAPPOINT WILLIAM.

There is every indication that France means to disappoint him. The tone of the French press is already divided and leaning toward England. The tone of the English press is markedly friendly to France, and the news of the last two days points to a certainty of an English alliance with Italy.

DESIRES PEACE WITH AMERICA.

It should be known in America that after the editors of all the great London papers left Chamberlain's office yesterday and sat down to write their inspired leaders every one dwelt with the most strength and most length on the strained relations with the United States. It is very evident that all were informed of England's wish for a settlement of the Venezuelan quarrel, first and above all else. It is perfectly transparent that of all she can devise a means for restoring harmonious relations with us she will roll up her sleeves and pitch into the Germans with a heartfelt and easy conscience.

This morning again some of the same editors revert to the Venezuelan problem, eulogize their American kindred and express regret that the English have not cultivated America more in the past.

To-day's Standard has a stiff, defiant, patriotic editorial, based on the German situation.

The Westminster Gazette has been searching mostly tomes, and perhaps the stars themselves, and finds the time ripe for bloody deeds. It declares:

According to the German oracles, this year will be an epoch of great calamities of war, famine and fire. There are enemies going ahead against the nations of Europe. The French prophets are just as bad. In the sixteenth century Philippe Olivier, of the Order of Cistercians, predicted that Paris would be completely destroyed this year and the City of Light would never be rebuilt.

"Another French friar of modern date predicted two years ago on his deathbed that ninety-five would be a year of drought and in ninety-six 'a terrible war will break out which will last two years and which will do great harm to the Church.' We are also reminded that ever so many prophets have predicted that Poland would be under foreign bondage only a hundred years. It is just a century since the division of Poland."

This strange lore is put forth in a light vein, but precisely suits the public temper, for it is unquestionable that the average man in the streets thirsts for war with Germany. Labouchere, the truth-teller, comes out again to-day with a scathing article, saying Jameson met his match and the blood of his killed is on their own heads. He says not two years since these same men hunted Lobengula to death and he will and speedily has been avenged. Alas, the truth will do no good. The English will not see the truth or learn their faults in our quarrel with them. They have not believed us purely patriotic or considered us in earnest. They have welcomed the misguided stuff their correspondents send over.

How Chamberlain Gagged the News.

London, Jan. 8.—In view of the greater importance of a friction with Germany, the English Government has raised the curtain on South Africa and we see exactly what I suspected. There was good reason for silencing the wires, for all Dutch and English Africa had been in a ferment.

The trouble in the Transvaal is over for the present because of President Kruger's shrewdness.

He had hard work to save Jameson's life, but did not save it from motives of humanity, generosity or leniency. He received a high price for the Doctor's life, and that price was peace, and perhaps the maintenance of his republic.

Both the Dutch States, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, have been transformed into great armed camps. The excited, revengeful Burgers who poured into Johannesburg by thousands, and others who now patrol the frontier with rifles on their shoulders, all thirsted for Jameson's life. Had they taken it a fearful race war would have been the result.

The meagre news of that business which paralyzed people more than the news that the Burgers were flocking to support their army, is followed by the latest word that the situation is practically settled and that the armed Uitlanders in Johannesburg have unconditionally surrendered.

BRITISH POSSESSIONS CONVULSED.

We turn from that story of threat and dread and danger, and looking over all the British possessions find none not convulsed with fear for Jameson, indignation at the British Government and preparation for either a race war or rebellion. We cannot say which.

Bechuanaland has been the quietest because the least populated, but it has been petitioning for mercy for Jameson, and irritating rumors of a threatened cavalry raid

from there have disturbed British and Dutch alike.

Natal has been intensely excited.

In Cape Colony, where a meeting on behalf of Jameson was abandoned for fear that feeling would run too high, the people have insisted that full honors of war be paid to Jameson.

The true condition of this great colony may be judged from the fact that women and children have been stampeded into the towns in ox-carts, while armed bands have been crossing the border toward the Transvaal.

This is the story held back for days by Joseph Chamberlain, who now declares the crisis is over in Africa. To celebrate the joyous end he is to-night dining the under officials of the Colonial Office at the Devonshire Club, but unfortunately for the public effect of this dinner, the newspapers announced at the same time as they did that the dinner would take place that unabated activity—after working hours—continues at the Colonial Office, while the Secretary and his big wigs are dining.

JAMESON TO BE TRIED IN ENGLAND.

I hear from that quarter that Dr. Jameson and Sir John Willoughby are likely to be brought to London for trial. The mere discussion of such a project shows how tender the situation is in Africa, especially with regard to Cecil Rhodes's private colony at the Cape.

The trouble in Africa is over for the present, but none can say more than that.

It is understood in banking circles in this city that Chamberlain notified the British South Africa Company that unless Rhodes can clear his skirts of all trace of connection with the conspiracy by which Jameson used the company's men to buccanier in the Transvaal the charter of the company will be revoked.

Rhodes resigned the Premiership to be free whatever turned up. He is the king and idol of the English in Africa. They are likely to do whatever he suggests or promises.

What will he say being stripped of his commercial as well as official honors? For an answer to that question the world must wait.

LAND GRABBING COMPANIES ARE ENDED.

Meantime it is evident that the days of great feudal, chartered and semi-regal trading companies are over. Through such companies England gained possession of India, all Western Canada, and a large part of Africa. Afterward these same means failed in the Transvaal. That method of world grabbing ended at Johannesburg.

The day of great chartered companies of land grabbers has closed in English history.

No use to deny the fact that Salivation Oil is fast taking the place of all other ailments.

OFFICIALS UNITED ON AN EXCISE LAW.

Commissioners Roosevelt, Woodman, Murray and Parker Have a Bill.

No Sunday Opening, Increased Charges for Licenses and Fewer Saloons.

Mayor Strong Scolds the Excise Board and Mr. Harburger Will Not Agree to a Report.

FORTY-EIGHT HOURS FOR THOUGHT

If the Report is Not in the Mayor's Hands by That Time He Has Threatened to Do Something Terrible.

President Murray and Commissioner Woodman, of the Excise Board, and President Roosevelt and Commissioner Parker, of the Police Board, have prepared an Excise bill which will be introduced into the Assembly at Albany next week. Just who will offer the bill, which is indorsed by a number of prominent Republicans in this city, has not been settled. It may possibly be fathered by Assemblyman French, of the Twenty-seventh Assembly District.

The bill raises the licenses for restaurants and hotels from \$300 and \$500 to \$500 and \$750, and for saloons from \$200 to \$350 and \$500. It further declares that there shall only be one saloon for every 400 inhabitants. This rate applies only to cities of the first class. For cities of the second class the license will be \$100 cheaper, and for cities of the third class, including towns, it will be \$150 less than the rate for cities of the first class.

The bill does not provide for the opening of saloons on Sundays, and if it should become a law it would reduce the number of saloons about one-half. This is in line with Mayor Strong's

policy regarding the reduction of saloons in this community.

There is very little prospect for the passage of the bill, but it may be adopted as a compromise in case the Raines bill fails to pass. The latter, however, is a caucus measure and will be whipped through both houses if possible.

SCOLDED BY MAYOR STRONG.

Mayor Strong sent for the members of the Excise Board yesterday. All responded promptly and were shown into the Mayor's private office, where the official temperature was very hot for about forty minutes. When all was over the Mayor said he talked with the Commissioners over routine excise matters of no great importance. The Commissioners said it was only semi-social call.

It was the most exciting "semi-social call" since the season for New Year's calling commenced, as was definitely learned later in the day. The Mayor told the Commissioners that it was clear to him that they had grown laggard in the performance of their duties, and as head of the municipal government he didn't propose to allow the condition of affairs to continue much longer. The Commissioners were struck dumb at this unexpected outbreak, but the Mayor went on:

"I mean just what I say, gentlemen. Excise business is kept behind from lack of harmony in your Board or from some other cause that cannot be justified. Your annual report for 1895 should have been in my hands before the close of the first Saturday of the new year, and I have not yet received it, nor have I received any satisfactory explanation as to why it is held back. I called you all here together to inform you that if I do not receive that report within the next forty-eight hours I will find a remedy for the delay."

By this time the Commissioners had recovered their vocal powers and all made explanations of the same kind. The substance of these excuses was that the Commissioners were so hurried over current excise business that they really didn't have time to prepare their annual report. There was no show of rebellion at the determined attitude of the Mayor and the gentlemen promised that the report would be forwarded to him inside of forty-eight hours. The Mayor was still on the warpath, and added:

THE MAYOR EMPHATIC.

"Gentlemen, I want you to remember that there must be no mistake about this. If there is, somebody will have to shoulder the consequences. Just think of it: in my annual message I was unable to make any reference to the doings of the Excise Board for the year just because of your dereliction of duty. I will now be compelled to prepare a supplemental report, all on your account."

Commissioner Harburger made an explanation which didn't soothe the Mayor a bit. He said the Commissioners had talked over their report, but they couldn't agree as to the way the excise record of the year should be treated or the recommendations that should be made. About the only thing of interest that all agreed on was that the receipts for the year 1895 exceeded those of the preceding year by \$17,320. President Murray and Mr. Woodman said all the trouble was caused by Mr. Harburger, who favored maintaining the present number of saloons, and also favored recommendations in the interest of the saloon keepers.

"I tell you for the last time," said the Mayor, "that you must manage to agree on public business in a reasonable time, or I will be compelled to find some solution of the difficulty." Then the Commissioners marched out, and all of them were thinking over what the Mayor really meant. They will hold an executive meeting to-day, and another attempt will be made to agree on a report.

President Murray and Commissioner

Harburger said last evening there was little prospect of an agreement, as neither side showed a disposition to yield. The prospect now is that two reports will be prepared, a majority report signed by President Murray and Commissioner Woodman, and a minority report signed by Commissioner Harburger alone. The majority report will favor higher license fees and a reduction of the number of saloons by about one-half. The minority report will contend for maintaining the present status as to the number of saloons and the license fee. It will also recommend Sunday opening of saloons after church hours, under restrictions. At the executive meeting to-day further steps will be taken in regard to the high-license project.

The Commissioners had an informal session yesterday of the measures embodied in the Excise bill prepared by Senator Raines, and also the bill prepared by the Excise Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The Raines bill proposes to legislate the Commissioners out of office on April 30, and it also proposes to raise license fees much higher than they have been in cities of the first class. It proposes to make the fee for saloon and hotel licenses \$800 in New York, \$300 in Brooklyn and \$500 in all other cities having a population of more than 50,000 persons. In smaller places the fee ranges from \$100 to \$350. New York City storekeepers must pay \$500, druggists \$200 and steamboats and railroads that sell liquor must pay a tax of \$200.

The duties of Excise Commissioners are to be performed by the Comptroller of the State as far as railroad and steamboat business is concerned, and by the county treasurers in other parts of the State. The Comptroller of New York is to receive one per cent for collecting the tax, and half the sum is to go to the State treasury. Fifteen special agents are to be employed in the State to collect the tax, at a salary of \$1,500 each and expenses. There is a local option clause in the bill, but no reference to Sunday opening. None of the local Commissioners think this bill can pass, and they feel secure in office for the present. All say the proposed license fee is much too high.

VIEWS ON SUNDAY OPENING.

Commissioner Harburger said: "The Sunday opening question should be settled without the delay which would be caused by voting on a local option bill. That is my great objection to the Chamber of Commerce bill. Under local option this city can have no relief for a year, and that is an injustice to men who have their capital invested in an honest business. The Chamber of Commerce Committee, as I understand, favors the opening of saloons on Sunday from 1 to 10 p. m., and so do Dr. Parkhurst and the other public men whose opinions are respected. But the Legislature should pass such an act without the expense and delay of a special election in April to find if the people really desire it."

Edward A. Newell, who is foreman of the present General Sessions Grand Jury, said yesterday: "I favor more liberal excise laws, but until the present laws are changed they should be enforced at night and on Sundays to the letter."

The Central Organization of the Liquor Dealers' Association issued a call yesterday for a special meeting, to be held next Tuesday in the Lexington Avenue Opera House, to discuss proposed legislation.

A delegation from the German-American Reform Union and the United Societies for Liberal Sunday Laws, headed by Dr. John Frederick and Edward Grosse, called on Edward Lauterbach yesterday and presented to him an amendment to the Raines Excise bill, which they want the Legislature to incorporate. The amendment provides for the sale of liquor in restaurants on Sundays with meals, and also for the sale between certain hours, not to be drunk on the premises.

Mr. Lauterbach told the committee that the organizations which they represented had assisted to elect Democratic candidates to the Legislature, and that the issue they raised during the campaign had been repudiated by the people. Therefore, he did not think that any measure advocated by them was likely to pass the present Legislature.

SPANISH OFFICIALS FEAR NO ATTACK.

They Say That Havana Is Not Now in Immediate Danger.

The Dons Laugh at the Thought of a Bombardment by the Insurgents.

Their Bands Would Be Annihilated by the Capital's Overwhelming Forces.

SLY GOMEZ'S PURPOSE EXPLAINED.

He Will Continue to Terrorize the Provinces and Cut Off Spain's Resources with the Torch—A small Battle Near Cuba del Agua.

By Charles Nicholson.

Havana, Jan. 8.—There is nothing to indicate now that Havana is in immediate danger of an attack from the insurgents, notwithstanding the alarming rumors cabled to New York from here.

The officials laughed when I showed them the inquiries as to the city's safety.

Except for dullness of business, Havana has as peaceful an appearance as has New York.

The officers say that if the insurgent army would make such a foolhardy attempt they would be annihilated. There are probably 25,000 volunteers under arms in the city, not to mention the regulars and garrisons of the strong forts. There are also several Spanish warships in the Bay.

Not a sign or manifestation of an uprising of which the rebel sympathizers dream have occurred.

The insurgent forces are being engaged by Generals Navarro and Suarez Valdez, and official reports say that the rebels are being driven back. The only insurgent force known to be near enough to cause apprehension are the armies of Nunez and Quintin Banderas, who would seem to have enough to do with Navarro and Valdez's strong columns.

It must be remembered that the insurgents' present net. Havana has no artillery, very little infantry, no warships and that therefore the people are needlessly alarmed. Nor, as I have cabled before, do I believe that it is Gomez's purpose to venture any attack on Havana, but that he will continue to terrorize the provinces. Late yesterday afternoon, when occurred the fight to which I have briefly referred, according to Government reports, General Navarro caught the main rebel column in a bad place on a plain crossed by numerous stone fences, near Ceiba del Agua.

The fences interfered with the movements of the rebel cavalry, so the Spanish infantry were able to work with best effect, and the enemy's charge broke ineffectively.

The insurgents left twenty-three killed and the Spanish twenty-seven wounded on the field, including four officers. The rebels retreated and General Navarro is believed to be in close pursuit.

INSURGENTS NOT A MOB.

A Planter Taken Prisoner by Gomez's Soldiers Describes the Strict Discipline in His Army.

By Charles Nicholson.

Havana, Jan. 1.—Honore F. Laney, a young sugar planter, whose place is near Navajas, arrived here to-day after the unusual experience of five days with the insurgents.

Gomez's army approached his place and was about to burn his cane when he protested and started to look for Brigadier-General Zayas, with whom he was acquainted. He was promptly made prisoner and taken before Maceo, who turned him over to Gomez. The rebel commander received him as a guest, but for military reasons would not let him return home at once. The General questioned him, and was questioned by him, and finally Gomez called his orderlies, two Spaniards who have espoused the Cuban cause, and directed them to see to Mr. Laney's comfort during his stay with the army of Cuba.

It was no time at all before adventures began. During the five days Gomez's army swung in a big circle, first along the line of the railroad, passing Pedros, Torricente, Claudio and coming around south of Murr. They crossed over to the east, crossed another railroad line north of Aguada, and recrossed it on the western end near Calimete. This is where the big fight occurred, but Mr. Laney gives a very different account of the fight than that published.

According to official reports, the insurgents lost a hundred or more men, while the losses of the Spanish were put down as eighteen killed and sixty-four wounded. "I saw one of Maceo's men fall dead and there were other casualties," says Mr. Laney, "but not more than eight men were killed. I saw seventeen dead Spanish soldiers on the field after the fight, when the Spaniards retreated."

"The battle started just as Gomez's men were hanging a negro, also of the command. He had assaulted a negress and was condemned by court-martial. They were hanging him back of the buildings of a sugar plantation, where a volley was fired and one of the execution squad was killed. The rebel infantry dropped into the grass, and began to answer the fire



"Here's Your Gun, Johnny."

"There is intense activity and great bustle of warlike preparation in all quarters." London cable dispatch.